

STEREO MOC Status Report
Time Period: 2017:338 - 2017:344

STEREO Ahead (STA) Status:

1. The following Ground System anomalies/events occurred during this reporting period:

- On day 340, during the DSS-35 support, telemetry binds were dropped at 0532z on both Ahead and Behind command workstations due to a NASCOM network issue. This anomaly resulted in the loss of 3.4 hours of real-time telemetry, commanding, and monitor data. All SSR data was received.
- On day 342, the STEREO project received authorization to continue ESA cross support for 2018.
- On day 343, during the DSS-63 support, initial acquisition of telemetry was 3 minutes late at 1533z due to a connection engine issue at the controlling complex. Later in the support, turbo decoder lock was lost intermittently between 1606z through 1607z. These anomalies resulted in the loss of 3 minutes of real-time telemetry and monitor data and 322 frames of SSR data. See DR #M110372 for more information.
- On day 344, during the DSS-63 support, turbo decoder lock was lost intermittently between 1200z through 1205z. This anomaly resulted in the loss of 169 frames of real-time telemetry and SSR data.

2. The following spacecraft/instrument events occurred during this week. The Ahead observatory operated nominally during this week.

- On day 339, the 41st SECCHI stepped calibration was executed at 0855z for perihelion in the Ahead orbit. This was the 10th SECCHI stepped calibration roll to be conducted without gyro use.
- The average daily science data return for Ahead was 5.4 Gbits during this week.

STEREO Behind (STB) Status:

1. Detailed status of the recovery activities this week to restore operations is listed below.
 - On day 339 during a 3.1 hour 4 kHz carrier recovery search pattern support with DSS-63, 320 commands were transmitted during the support for carrier recovery. No carrier was detected by either the DSN station or the radio science receiver team. All 7 points on the pattern were covered twice. Three commands must be received sequentially to power on the transmitter.
 - On day 343, during a 3 hour 4 kHz carrier recovery support with DSS-63, 320 commands were transmitted during the support. No carrier was detected by either the DSN station or the radio science receiver team after attempting to power on the TWTA for 30 minutes. Transitioned to battery recovery operations for the remainder of the support which consists of repeatedly sweeping a 4 kHz uplink range and sending commands for IEM switched power and PDU 1553 interface bus off.
2. The Behind loss of communication anomaly occurred on October 1, 2014 from simultaneous failures of star tracker and IMU. Post superior solar conjunction, recovery operations resumed on November 30, 2015. By implementing the NASA Failure Review Board recommendations, the first recovery attempt began with carrier detection by the DSN on August 21st, through September 23, 2016. At a spacecraft range of ~2 AU, the observatory was found to be rotating slowly about its principal axis of inertia for which the uncontrolled attitude allowed some solar array input and continuous uplink and downlink communications on the LGA at emergency data rates. Over the next 22 continuous days, significant obstacles to recovery were overcome with a collaborative effort of the JHU/APL engineering team, NASA GSFC, DSN, FDF, SSMO scheduling, and Mission Operations teams. This consisted of:
 - Reliably commanding a rotating spacecraft with uncontrolled attitude at a distance of 2 AU
 - How to power on the spacecraft that was never designed to be off without collapsing the battery voltage
 - Acquiring telemetry at 35 bps from a spacecraft that is rotating with an uncontrolled attitude

- Warming a frozen propulsion subsystem with a degraded battery and limited solar array input with an uncontrolled attitude
- Configuring, loading, and verifying EA, C&DH, and G&C parameters and macros with very limited telemetry
- Conducting an autonomous momentum dump in the blind and transitioning to C&DH standby mode and successfully receiving telemetry on the HGA indicating star tracker lock and decreasing system momentum.

However, system momentum level remained above the threshold for re-establishing attitude control with the reaction wheels. Due to the uncontrolled attitude, communication degraded and the last detection of the carrier was on September 23, 2016.

Behind Observatory Status - From the last telemetry received on September 18, 2016 and the telemetry assessment review held on February 24, 2017, main bus voltage is low, 3 out of 11 battery cells are bypassed, attitude remains uncontrolled, rotating about its principal axis of maximum moment of inertia. While likely all ~42 kg of hydrazine remains and is frozen, both pressure transducers are not functioning. EA mode is enabled and autonomy is disabled. The battery charge rate is C/10. RF is configured for the +Z LGA at emergency data rates and the range of the expected best lock frequency (BLF) is known. Necessary macro sequences have been tested to allow the peak power tracker in C&DH standby mode to protect the battery. These macro sequences will be loaded to EEPROM when the communications supports longer commands.

After 2.5 months of daily recovery efforts that began on August 21st, to date the downlink signal has not been detected by the DSN block V receivers or the RSR team. With significant support of the DSN, two different acquisition sequences are being utilized weekly to re-establish communications with STEREO Behind using a 70m track:

1. 4 kHz Sweep - consists of repeatedly sweeping a 4 kHz uplink frequency range for which the BLF was found during the first recovery attempt. Commands are sent to power on the transmitter for 30 minutes. If no carrier signal is detected, the transmitter is powered off and battery recovery commands are sent consisting power off the IEM switched power and PDU 1553 interface bus. This acquisition sequence is used 3 times each week.

2. 4 kHz Sweep with Search Pattern - The DSN created a diamond shaped search pattern with 7 steps of 0.037 deg, dwelling 10 min & 49 sec/step. There are two diamond patterns of 4 steps to cover the area of the estimated ephemeris error. The starting point is offset 0.02 deg for 100% uplink optimization. Repeating each diamond pattern accounts for the 30 minute RTLT. This search pattern acquisition sequence is used twice weekly during 3 hour supports, sending battery recovery commands at each step during the first day and on the second day, sending carrier recovery commands at each step.